

EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicants petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks for a one-month extension of time until October 5, 2001, for responding to the Office Action of June 5, 2001, under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to treat any current or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. Applicant also authorizes the Commissioner to charge all required fees to the Deposit Account No. 05-1330.

AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph at page 6, line 8, immediately following sentence ending with "into the catalyst bed to different depths."

sub D An embodiment of the invention is directed to a fixed bed reactor 6 for reacting a feedstock. The reactor 6 comprises a fixed catalyst bed 5 and a bypass device positioned or disposed within the fixed catalyst bed 5. The bypass device comprises a first elongated hollow member (also referred to as a "cage member" or "cage") 2 having a top wall, side walls, a bottom wall and a plurality of apertures or openings disposed generally near a lower end or section of cage 2. The bypass device further comprises a second elongated hollow member 1 disposed within cage 2 and protruding or extending through the top wall of cage 2. The second elongated member 1 extends above the catalyst bed 5. The cage member 2 has an upper enclosed portion (top wall and upper portion of the side walls) 3 and a lower perforated portion (bottom wall and lower portion of side walls) 4. Optionally, the second hollow elongated member 1 may have a cap 7 over the end or portion of member 1 that extends above the catalyst bed 5. The Figure also shows an optional layer of inert material 8 disposed within the catalyst bed in which the bypassed material is distributed. The first and second elongated hollow members may be tubular members with the first elongated hollow member 1 positioned or disposed within the second elongated hollow member as shown in the Figure. In operation, the first

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elongated hollow member receives a portion of the feedstock and directs it into the second elongated member where it is discharged through the openings of the cage into the catalyst bed 5.

Support for this paragraph can be found, *inter alia*, in the original specification at page 2, line 19-line 24, page 3, line 1- line 7, page 11, line 2 - line 12, page 3, line 20 - line 24, page 4, line 1 - line 4, and page 11, line 13 - line 17. No new matter is added.

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Please add at page 3, line 20 right after the caption "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES" the phrase "The Figure depicts a fouling tolerant fixed bed reactor according to an embodiment of the present invention."

Support for this addition can be found, *inter alia*, at page 3 line 20 of the original specification.

Please delete paragraph beginning at page 3, line 20 with the phrase "The figure depicts one possible..." and ending at page 4, line 4 with the phrase "... the bypassed material is distributed."

No new matter is added.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

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9. (Twice amended) A method for operating a fixed bed reactor for reacting a feedstock in which the feedstock is contacted with a fixed bed of catalytic material contained in said reactor, said fixed bed of catalytic material having a top and bottom layer, and wherein during operating of said fixed bed reactor, there is a pressure drop across said top layer of said fixed bed of catalytic material and wherein the pressure drop across said top layer of said fixed bed of catalytic material increases during reaction